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Copy

Boston Nov. 27. 1837.

Mr. May

Dear Sir

I learn from Rev. S. J. May, that certain statements are going abroad in Leicester, from me, via Mr. Peabody of Worcester, respecting Mr. Garrison, which as they go, I suppose are not correct, nor such as I made to Mr. Peabody. Who is in fault in the matter, & what the precise character of the statements, as they go, I cannot say. That all mistake may however be corrected I wish to say

1. That, whatever may be Mr. Garrison's opinions & however desirous he may be to see them prevail, I give him credit for honesty of intention, & do not think that he would intentionally take any mean or unfair method to give them prevalence.

2. That his opinions, so far as I have been able to learn them, are those of the Quakers on the subjects of the ministry, the ordinances, & the sabbath, & those of the Perfectionists as they are called, on the subject of government, civil & ecclesiastical, & on theological topics generally— With these opinions I, of course, have no fellowship, but on the contrary regard them as erroneous in character, & pernicious in tendency & result.

3. That Mr. Garrison not only believes his opinions on these subjects to be correct, but values them, & would therefore be as glad to see his opinions prevail as I should to see mine, or

these subjects, prevail, & that in this sense he would be glad to see the sabbath, ministry, ordinances, government &c done away— but not in the sense of a wicked, malicious, jacobinical disorganizer.

4. That Mr. Garrison has, in my judgment, inexcusably & censurably introduced his peculiar sentiments, in a few instances recently, into the Liberator, & has, so far, played the sectarian himself, & given the sectarian coloring of his own peculiarities to the abolitionism of his paper.

5. That from intimations from himself, such as these, "I must come out with my views on these subjects" "the abolition reform has got about as far as it can go until we have a more general & radical reform" &c. &c, & from a variety of circumstances, I have had the impression that at the commencement of another year he intended so to come out; & not only so but, important as he regards the abolition reform, that it was now a second rate affair with him. And such I know to have been the impression of some who sympathise more or less with him in his peculiarities; & they accordingly have been expecting that at the opening of another year, he would either give up the Liberator & start a new paper devoted specially to the promulgation of his peculiar views, or change the character of the Liberator so as to compass that end. Indeed Mr. G. has himself, in so many words, spoken repeatedly of such a measure. In a late number of the Liberator however he seems to

have abandoned all idea of such a measure, & declares that abolition is still to be the great object of his paper. Whether & whether the idea of another paper is also abandoned it will be remains to be seen. I hope that both projects will be given up, & that abolition will still be the great object of the man, as well as of the paper. If any statements will be the fact remains to be seen. have going abroad in Leicester contrary to the general tenor of the above, they have never been authorised by me. In my conversation with Mr. Peabody I did said nothing more than what I have here said, at least I did not intend to say more; & if any thing more is going abroad, there must have been some misunderstanding in the case, either on the part of Mr. Peabody, or on the part of the to whom Mr. Peabody communicated what I said.

You are at liberty, if necessary to the correction of statements that are erroneous & unjustly injurious to Mr. Garrison, to show this to any person; if you will do so, & I shall consider it a favor to me, as well as a matter that is due to Mr. G., who certainly ought not to suffer for more than he deserves, ~~if you will do so~~.

Yours for the Slave

A. A. Phelps

Paid.

Rev. Mr. May.

Leicester

Mass.

Re beginning of abolition

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